

February 16, 2017

Appropriations Committee:

Senator Catherine Osten

Senator Paul Formica

Representative Toni Walker

RE: Inter-district Magnet School Funding: ACES Educational Center for the Arts

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in support of magnet school funding in CT, support arts-infused education.

My daughter, Kaitlin Sepanek, is currently a student of both Oxford High School, and ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) in New Haven. As you are probably aware, ECA draws 300 students from over 27 townships and communities throughout Connecticut. They are a unique inter-district magnet arts high school, representing students on a regional scale unmatched by any other school in the State of Connecticut.

ECA has been extremely important to my daughter as she looks to her future as a music teacher. They employ professional, practicing artists and arts educators from all areas of expertise in the fields of art and education. They use arts-based learning and arts-infused education to enhance student skills in: innovation; empathy; problem-solving; constructive feedback; critical assessment; self-worth and worth in others; voice and confidence; harnessing failure; and much more. ECA goes above and beyond the call of duty to create a highly diverse learning environment that prioritizes skill development in resiliency and individual creativity. They receive more national, state, and regional arts awards AND honorable recognitions than any other school in the State of Connecticut.

My daughter would not be the confident young woman she is today without ECA. I sincerely hope that you consider this program worthy of saving, and I ask you to vote in support of magnet school funding in CT, support arts-infused education.

Sincerely,

Kristina Sepanek
425 Roosevelt Drive
Oxford, CT 06478